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CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation-in-part of PCT Application

5 No. PCT/EP98/04930, filed July 23, 1998, the content of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference thereto.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to cream-based food

compositions and processes for preparing the same. More particularly, the invention relates to the use of these cream compositions and processes in the manufacture of particular food compositions.

15 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In numerous applications, such as those required by the food processing industry, a simple and rapid process for the production of a cream with a creamy texture and fresh taste is desirable. The preparation of certain cream-based food compositions is generally known for this purpose.

European Patent Application 0714608 describes a process for the manufacture of appetizers from a mixture containing in particular soft white cheese. This soft white cheese is pasteurized and cooled to 10°C before being extruded and then frozen, so that it can then be cut into portions which are subsequently coated with a fat-based topping.

Furthermore, European Patent Application 0687420 describes a process for the manufacture of a biscuit coated and filled with a cream containing living lactic acid

30 bacteria, exhibiting a water activity (Aw) of 0.75-0.86 and comprising a sufficient amount of fatty substance so that it is in the form of a water-in-oil emulsion.

European Patent Application 0818149 discloses an aerated food composition constituted by an oil-in-water

35 emulsion comprising 20% to 45% fats, milk proteins, possibly sugars, and 20% to 38% water, having an acid pH of from 3.5 to 6 and obtained by emulsifying a mixture of an aqueous phase

based on fresh cheese, yogurt or sour cream and a fat phase comprising butter or vegetable fat, followed by pasteurizing the emulsion and foaming.

Despite these prior art formulations, there remains

a need for creams that have a creamy texture and a fresh taste
for use in the manufacture of food compositions.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a simple and rapid

process for producing a cream composition having a creamy
texture and a fresh taste, and to a process for producing this
cream.

The process according to the present invention, comprises preparing a mixture that typically contains from 15 about 10% to 20% of milk derivatives, from about 8% to 30% of sugars, and from about 10% to 60% of fermented dairy product. The mixture may contain up to about 25% of sour cream or of dairy cream containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, up to about 35% of a texturizing agent, up to about 20 20% of an aromatic product and up to about 0.5% of salt. mixture is prepared by stirring together the ingredients. This mixture is then heat treated at a temperature of about 60°C to 115°C for about 7 seconds to 5 minutes. temperature of the mixture is adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C, 25 and about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is added to the mixture with stirring, so as to obtain a homogeneous cream which exhibits an Aw of about 0.80 to 0.91.

In one embodiment, the milk derivative includes at

least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk,
sweetened evaporated milk, or combinations thereof. In
another embodiment, the fermented dairy product includes at
least one of fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered
fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt

diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated
cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or
milk, or combinations thereof. The sour cream or dairy cream
is preferably present in an amount from about 0.01% to 25% of

the mixture to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.

When used, the texturizing agent is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 35% and includes at least one of 5 maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof. Similarly, the aromatic product is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 20% and includes at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit chunks, whole fruits, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof. Also, the salt is preferably present in an amount from about 0.01% to 0.5%.

In another embodiment, the invention includes adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 4 to 6 before the mixture is heat treated. If desired, a plurality of living lactic acid bacteria can be added to the mixture at a concentration of about 10⁸ to 10¹¹ per gram of the mixture after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C. Aeration of the homogenous cream is possible.

The invention also relates to a cream-based food composition that includes the previously described mixtures. This composition may be disposed on at least one layer of a biscuit. In a preferred embodiment, the composition is disposed between each layer of a biscuit having two layers. In another embodiment, the food composition preferably has a water activity (A_w) of about 0.75 to 0.88.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It has now been discovered that the process according to the present invention makes it possible to

30 produce a cream that retains a creamy texture and a fresh taste even after 45 days at refrigerator temperature. The cream according to the present invention has the advantage of being edible directly after storage at refrigerator temperature or several hours after having been exposed to room temperature.

In this description, the expression "milk derivative" will be employed to denote powdered skimmed milk, powdered unskimmed milk or sweetened evaporated milk, while

the term "biscuit" will be employed to denote any dough-based preparation, such as sponge cake, pound cake, gingerbread, brioche rolls, or Viennese bread and buns.

In order to make use of the present process, a 5 specific mixture is prepared. This mixture typically contains about 10% to 20%, and preferably from about 15% to 19%, of a milk derivative; from about 8% to 30%, preferably from about 12% to 22%, of a sugar; and from about 5% to 60%, and preferably from about 10% to 35%, of a fermented dairy 10 product. A number of optional ingredients may be included, if desired. For example, from about 0% to about 25%, and preferably from about 5% to 15%, of sour cream or of a dairy cream containing from about 25% to about 45% of a fatty substance of the sour cream or dairy cream; from about 0% to 15 about 35%, and preferably from about 10% to 25%, of a texturizing agent; from about 0% to about 20%, and preferably from about 5% to 15%, of an aromatic product; and from about 0% to about 0.5%, preferably from about 0.1% to 0.4%, of salt may be used. The mixture is thus prepared by stirring the 20 ingredients in any suitable mixing device, such as a The mixture according to the present invention turbomixer. can also be formulated to contain a supplement of inorganic salts, functional nutritional compounds and/or vitamins in conventional amounts.

It is possible to use any suitable form of sugar, such as sucrose, invert sugar syrup, glucose syrup, honey, or combinations thereof.

It is possible to use any suitable type of fermented dairy product, such as fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese,

30 powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or in water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or in milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or in milk, or combinations thereof.

It is possible to use sour cream or dairy cream

35 containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, so as to
increase the organoleptic qualities of the mixture, in
particular its smoothness. When the sour cream or dairy cream

is included, it is preferably present in an amount of at least about 0.01%.

Maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof, can optionally be included as a texturizing agent, so as to give body to the mixture while limiting its sweet flavor. When the texturizing agent is included, it is present in an amount from at least about 0.01%.

It is also possible to include an aromatic product,

10 such as honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazelnuts, almonds,

vanilla, fruit syrup, concentrated fruit juices, or

combinations thereof. When the aromatic product is included,

it is present in any taste perceptible amount and generally at

least about 0.01%.

It is also possible to include a flavoring agent, such as cocoa, coffee, hazelnuts, vanilla, or fruit flavors, in solid, powdered, or liquid form, or combinations thereof. The flavoring agent can be added in any desired amount, but typically is included in an amount of at least about 0.1% by weight of the mixture.

It is also optional, but preferred, to include lemon, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, apricots or peaches as whole fruits, fruit chunks, or combinations thereof. The whole fruits and fruit chunks can be candied fruits, uncandied fruits, semi-candied fruits, or freeze-dried fruits, and can be added in an amount of between 2 and 25% by weight of the mixture.

Before the heat treatment, the pH of the mixture is preferably adjusted to about 4 to 6, depending on the acidity of the aromatic product contained in the mixture. In the case where the aromatic product is acidic, the pH of the mixture is very precisely adjusted, so as not to destroy the smooth structure of the mixture. When too high, the pH can be adjusted by adding from about 0.1% to 2% of an organic acid, such as lactic or citric acid, to the mixture. One of ordinary skill in the art will be readily be able to determine other suitable acidic or basic agents that are edible and suitable for adjusting the pH.

The mixture is then heat treated at about 60°C to 115°C for approximately 7 seconds to 5 minutes, so as to pasteurize it. If it is desired to set the mixture aside before adding the fatty substance thereto, it is possible, if 5 appropriate, to cool it, so as to store it at about 8°C to 20°C and to maintain it thus under good hygienic conditions. The temperature of the mixture is then subsequently adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C. It is possible to incorporate, in the mixture, from about 0.02% to 0.5% of crystalline lactose per 100 g of mixture, after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to the temperature range of about 15°C to 40°C.

Living lactic acid bacteria can then optionally be added to the mixture at a concentration of about 10⁸ to 10¹¹, per gram of mixture, after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to the temperature range of about 15°C to 40°C. The living lactic acid bacteria can be added in dried form, in the form of a fresh or frozen concentrated culture, or in the form of a fermented dairy product. By adding this concentration of live bacteria during preparation, the desired final levels can be achieved. The final concentration would be between about 10⁴ to 10⁹ per gram.

From about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is then added to the mixture with stirring, so as to obtain a homogeneous cream that exhibits an A_w from about 0.80 to 0.91. In one embodiment, the A_w is from about 0.86 to 0.91, and in another embodiment, the A_w is from about 0.87 to 0.91. The fatty substance can be vegetable fat, the melting point of which is greater than about 30°C, or a mixture of such vegetable fats and of animal fat. In particular, butter is the most preferred fatty substance.

It is then possible to aerate the cream, so as to make it lighter. It is possible in particular to aerate it by incorporating therein, by continuous injection, in particular from about 25 ml to 150 ml of an inert gas, such as nitrogen or other gases, typically air or carbon dioxide, per 100 g of cream. If desired, it is also possible to utilize the cream without aeration.

Another subject of the present invention is a food composition comprising a cream obtained by the process, which cream is then cooled and deposited on at least one layer of biscuit, preferably between two layers of biscuit.

Moreover, this food composition can be stored for at least 45 days at typical refrigerator temperatures, that is to say at about 4°C to 8°C. The food composition according to the present invention can be consumed immediately after storage at refrigerator temperature or a few hours, in 10 particular about 3 h to 12 h after having been removed from a refrigeration area and having been left at room temperature.

The food composition can be coated entirely or partially with chocolate, a chocolate substitute, or an icing of the fondant type.

Moreover, the food composition according to the present invention can contain, in the cream or in the biscuit, lactic acid bacteria at a final concentration of about 104 to about 109 per gram of the food composition.

20 **EXAMPLES**

The preparation process and the food composition according to the present invention are described in more detail in the examples below where the percentages are given by weight, except when otherwise indicated.

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Example 1

A food composition with a strawberry aroma is prepared.

To do this, a mixture containing 17% of powdered 30 skimmed milk, 14% of sucrose, 2.3% of glucose syrup, 20% of cream cheese, 11% of yogurt, 5% of dairy cream containing 35% of fatty substance, 20% of maltodextrin, 10% of strawberry pulp and 0.7% of powdered strawberry essence is prepared with stirring in a turbomixer.

The pH of the mixture is adjusted to 4.4 by adding 35 1.5% of lactic acid thereto.

The viscosity of the mixture is measured using a Brookfield viscometer sold by the Company Brookfield

Engineering Laboratories Inc., Stoughton, USA. The mixture exhibits a viscosity of 7600 cPs (7,600 mPa.s) at 29°C.

The mixture is then heat treated at 80°C for 3 minutes.

5 The mixture is then adjusted to 32°C before incorporating 0.04% of crystalline lactose per 100 g of mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream, 20% of molten fatty substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture is 10 added.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits an $A_{\mbox{\tiny W}}$ of 0.91 and a pH value of 4.3.

Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of a biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by incorporating therein 70 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Using a depositing nozzle, 20 g of this cream are then deposited between two layers of biscuit, each layer weighing 6 g.

A food composition is thus obtained with a 20 strawberry aroma that has a creamy texture and that exhibits a fresh taste.

This composition is wrapped, e.g., in a hermetically closed plastic sachet, and is then stored at refrigerator temperature. It can be readily stored at refrigerator temperatures for 8 weeks.

Example 2

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A food composition with a cocoa aroma is prepared. To do this, a mixture containing 15% of powdered

skimmed milk, 18% of sucrose, 4% of invert sugar syrup, 19% of cream cheese, 14% of yogurt, 6% of dairy cream containing 35% of fatty substance, 19% of maltodextrin, and 5% of powdered cocoa is prepared with stirring in a turbo mixer.

The viscosity of the mixture is measured using a Brookfield viscometer sold by Brookfield Engineering Laboratories Inc., Stoughton, USA. The mixture exhibits a viscosity of 12,000 cPs (12,000 mPa.s) at 33°C with an RV5 unit at a rotational speed of 10 rpm.

The mixture is then heat treated at $80\,^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 3 minutes.

The mixture is then adjusted to 32°C before incorporating 0.04% of crystalline lactose per 100 g of mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream, 25% of molten fatty substance with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is then added with stirring.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits 10 an $A_{\scriptscriptstyle W}$ of 0.89 and a pH value of 5.8.

Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by incorporating therein 60 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Using a depositing nozzle, 14 g of this cream are then deposited between two layers of biscuit, each weighing 7 g.

A food composition is thus obtained with a cocoa aroma that has a creamy texture and which exhibits a fresh taste.

This composition is wrapped in a hermetically closed plastic sachet and is then stored at refrigerator temperature.

Example 3

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A food composition with a blueberry aroma is prepared.

To do this, a concentrated yogurt with 76% milk, 24% skimmed milk powder, and yogurt ferments is prepared. In this concentrated yogurt, living lactic acid bacteria are present at a concentration of 5×10^8 per gram of the concentrated yogurt.

A mixture containing 19% of milk, 14% of skimmed milk powder, 17.3% of sugar, 14% of inverted sugar, 20% of

maltodextrin, 13% of blueberry pulp, 0.83% of powdered blueberry essence, 1.7% of lactic acid, 0.17% of salt is

35 prepared with stirring in a turbomixer.

The mixture is then pasteurized before adding 0.03% of microcrystalline lactose.

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Then 33% of the concentrated yogurt, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is added with stirring to the mixture.

To obtain a homogeneous cream 33% of molten fatty 5 substance, with respect to the total weight of the mixture, is then added with stirring.

A homogeneous cream is thus obtained which exhibits an A_{ν} of 0.91, a pH of 4.5 and a specific gravity of about 650 g/l. This homogeneous cream contains living lactic acid

10 bacteria at a concentration of 108 per gram of the cream.

Before depositing this homogeneous cream between two layers of biscuit, it is cooled and then aerated by incorporating therein 60 ml of nitrogen per 100 g of cream.

Between two layers of biscuit, each weighing 10 g, 15 20 g of cream is deposited.

The food composition has an $A_{\rm w}$ of 0.88 and contains living lactic acid bacteria at a concentration of 5×10^7 per gram of the food composition. After being chilled for 45 days, the food composition still contains living lactic acid

20 bacteria at a concentration over of 10⁶ per gram of the food composition.

The term "about" as used herein in connection with one or more numbers or numerical ranges, should be understood to refer to all such numbers, including all numbers in a range.

All percentages herein are weight percentages unless otherwise specified.

The invention described and claimed herein is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments herein

30 disclosed, since these embodiments are intended as illustrations of several aspects of the invention. Any equivalent embodiments are intended to be within the scope of this invention. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A process for the preparation of a cream
 composition comprising:

stirring together about 10% to 20% of milk derivative, about 8% to 30% of a sugar, and about 10% to 60% of a fermented dairy product; optionally with sour cream or a dairy cream in an amount up to about 25%, the sour or dairy cream containing from about 25% to 45% of fatty substances; a texturizing agent in an amount up to about 35%; an aromatic product in an amount up to about 20%; and a salt in an amount up to about 0.5%; to form a mixture;

heat treating the mixture 60°C to 115°C for about 7 15 seconds to 5 minutes;

cooling the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C; and adding about 10% to 45% of a molten fatty substance with respect to the total weight of the mixture with stirring to obtain a homogeneous cream composition which exhibits a 20 water activity (A_w) of about 0.80 to 0.91.

- 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the milk derivative comprises at least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk, sweetened evaporated milk, or 25 combinations thereof.
- 3. The process of claim 1, wherein the fermented dairy product comprises at least one of fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or milk, or combinations thereof.
- 4. The process of claim 1, wherein the sour cream or dairy cream is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.

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- 5. The process of claim 1, wherein the texturizing agent comprises at least one of maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to moderate sweetness in the cream 5 composition.
- 6. The process of claim 1, wherein the aromatic product is present in an amount at least about 0.01% and comprises at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel,
 10 hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof.
 - 7. The process of claim 1, wherein the salt is present in an amount from about 0.01% to 0.5%.
 - 8. The process of claim 1, which further comprises adjusting the pH of the mixture to about 4 to 6 before the mixture is heat treated.
- 9. The process of claim 1, which further comprises adding a plurality of living lactic acid bacteria to the mixture at a concentration of about 10⁸ to 10¹¹ per gram of the mixture after having adjusted the temperature of the mixture to about 15°C to 40°C.
 - 10. The process of claim 1, which further comprises aerating the homogeneous cream composition.
- 11. The cream composition prepared by the process 30 of claim 1.
 - 12. The cream composition prepared by the process of claim 10.
- 13. A cream composition comprising a mixture of: about 10 % to 20% of a milk derivative; about 8% to 30% of a sugar; about 5% to 60% of a fermented dairy product;

optionally up to about 25% of sour cream or a dairy cream, wherein the sour or dairy cream contains from about 25% to 45% of fatty substances;

optionally up to about 35% of a texturizing agent;

optionally up to about 20% of an aromatic product;

and

optionally up to about 0.5% of salt.

- 14. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the milk derivative comprises at least one of powdered unskimmed milk, powdered skimmed milk, sweetened evaporated milk, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of about 15% to 19%.
- 15. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the fermented dairy product comprises fermented milk, yogurt, cream cheese, powdered fermented milk diluted in milk or water, powdered yogurt diluted in water or milk, concentrated yogurt, concentrated cream cheese, powdered cream cheese, quark diluted in water or milk, or combinations thereof and is present in an amount of about 10% to 35%.
- 16. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the sour cream or dairy cream is present in an amount of at least about 0.01% to increase the organoleptic or smoothness qualities of the mixture.
- 17. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the texturizing agent is present in an amount of at least about30 0.01% and comprises at least one of maltodextrin, fermented cereal product, or combinations thereof.
- 18. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the aromatic product is present in an amount of at least about 35 0.01% and comprises at least one of honey, cocoa, coffee, caramel, hazel-nuts, almonds, vanilla, fruit syrups, concentrated fruit juices, or combinations thereof.

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- 19. The cream composition of claim 13, wherein the salt is present in an amount of at least about 0.01%.
- 20. The cream composition of claim 13, further comprising living lactic acid bacteria present at a concentration of about 10⁴ to 10¹¹ per gram of the mixture.
 - 21. The cream composition of claim 13, which comprises a water activity $(A_{\mbox{\tiny W}})$ of about 0.75 to 0.88.
 - 22. The cream composition of claim 13 further comprising a molten fatty substance in an amount of about 10% to 45% by weight of the mixture.
- 15 23. The cream composition of claim 13 in aerated form.
 - 24. A food product comprising the cream composition of claim 13 disposed on at least one layer of a biscuit.
 - The food product of claim 24, wherein the cream composition is disposed between two biscuit layers.

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CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

ABSTRACT

- A process for the preparation of a cream, in which a mixture containing about 10% to 20% of milk derivatives, about 8% to 30% of sugars, about 10% to 60% of fermented dairy product, about 0% to 25% of sour cream or of dairy cream containing about 25% to 45% of fatty substance, about 0% to 35% of texturizing agent, about 0% to 20% of aromatic product,
- and about 0% to 0.5% of salt is prepared by stirring, heat treating at a temperature of about 60°C to 115°C for about 7 seconds to 5 minutes; the temperature of the mixture is then adjusted to about 15°C to 40°C and to which molten fatty substance is added with stirring, so as to obtain a
- homogeneous cream. The cream thus obtained can be used in the manufacture of a food composition by depositing it on at least one layer, preferably between two layers, of food product, e.g., a biscuit.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

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I hereby state that I have reviewed and un amendment referred to above.	derstand the contents of the	above ic	lentified application, includi	ing the claims, as	s amend	led by any
I acknowledge the duty to disclose informati	on known to me to be material	to patent	ability as defined in Title 37,	Code of Federal F	Regulati	ons, §1.56.
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under listed below and have also identified below a on which priority is claimed:	Title 35, United States Code, ny foreign application for pate	§119(a)- nt or inve	(d) of any foreign application antor's certificate having a film	(s) for patent or in ng date before tha	ventor's it of the	certificate
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, U	nited States Code, §119(e) of	any Uni	ted States provisional applica	ation(s) listed bel	ow.	
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

			STATUS	
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT/EP98/04930	23 July 1998		x	

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint S. Leslie Misrock (Reg. No. 18872), Harry C. Jones, III (Reg. No. 20280), Berj A. Terzian (Reg. No. 20660), David Weild, III (Reg. No. 1094), Jonathan A. Marshall (Reg. No. 24614), Barry D. Rein (Reg. No. 22411), Stanton T. Lawrence, III (Reg. No. 25736), Charles E. McKenney (Reg. No. 22795), Philip T. Shannon (Reg. No. 24278), Francis E. Morris (Reg. No. 24615), Charles E. Miller (Reg. No. 24576), Gidon D. Stern (Reg. No. 27469), John J. Lanter, Ir. (Reg. No. 27814), Brian M. Poissant (Reg. No. 28462), Brian D. Coggio (Reg. No. 27624), Rory J. Radding (Reg. No. 28749), Stephen J. Harbulak (Reg. No. 29166), Donald J. Goodell (Reg. No. 19766), James N. Palik (Reg. No. 25510), Thomas E. Frichel (Reg. No. 29258), Laura A. Coruzzi (Reg. No. 30742), Jennifer Gordon (Reg. No. 30753), Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30256), Geraldine F. Baldwin (Reg. No. 31232), Victor N. Balancia (Reg. No. 31231), Samuel B. Abrams (Reg. No. 30605), Steven I. Wallach (Reg. No. 35402), Marcia H. Sundeen (Reg. No. 3893), Paul J. Zegger (Reg. No. 33821), Edmond R. Bannon (Reg. No. 32110), Bruce J. Barker (Reg. No. 3291), Adriane M. Antler (Reg. No. 32605), Thomas G. Rowan (Reg. No. 34419), James G. Markey (Reg. No. 31636), Thomas D. Kohler (Reg. No. 32797), Scott D. Stimpson (Reg. No. 33607), Gary S. Williams (Reg. No. 31066), William S. Galliani (Reg. No. 33885), Ann L. Gisolfi (Reg. No. 38100), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rothery (Reg. No. 35340), Brian D. Siff (Reg. No. 35679), and Alan Tenenbaum (Reg. No. 38100), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rothery (Reg. No. 35340), Brian D. Siff (Reg. No. 35679), and Alan Tenenbaum (Reg. No. 38100), Anthony M. Insogna (Reg. No. 35203), Brian M. Rothery (Reg. No. 35340), Brian D. Siff (Reg. No. 3667), and each of them, my attorneys, to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

PENNIE & EDMONDS LLF 1667 K. Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP DOCKETING (202) 496-4721

		Washington, D.C. 20006	(202) 2	190-4/21 	
$\overline{}$	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LASTNAME BAENSCH	FIRST NAME Johannes	MIDDLE NAME COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHI	
2	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	City Le Breuil-en-Auge	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY France	Germany STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIP CODE
1	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	street Le Pré-aux-Meiux	Le Breuil-en-Auge	France MIDDLE NAME	14130
1	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LASTNAME GAUGAZ	FIRST NAME Marlène	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSH	10
2	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	Cury Carseaux	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Switzerland	Switzerland State or country	ZIP CODE
2	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET' 36, rue du Village	Corseaux	Switzerland MIDDLE NAME	1802
	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME LENEUF	Dominique	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSH	TD.
2	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY Vevey	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Switzerland	France	ŽIP ÇOPE
3	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET 18, avenue de la Prairie	crry Vevey	STATE OR COUNTRY Switzerland	1800
	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	LAST NAME REIMERDES	FIRST NAME Ernst	MIDDLE NAME Hartmut COUNTRY OF CITIZENS	ırı
2	RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	CITY Cully/Villette	STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY Switzerland	Germany STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIF CODE
4	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	street 161, route de Lausanne	Cully/Villette	Switzerland	1096
	FULL NAME	LASTNAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
2	OF INVENTOR RESIDENCE &	OIL	STATE OR FOREKIN COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENS	ZIP CODE
5	POST OFFICE	STREET	CITY	State or country	ZIPCODE
	ADDRESS FULL NAME	LASTNAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
2	OF INVENTOR RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP	СПҮ	STATE OR FOREIGY COUNTRY	COUNTRY OF CITIZENS	ZIP CODE
6	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	STREET	City	STATE OR COUNTRY	ZIF GODE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under flection 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or the patrix issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF MARLENE GAUGAZ	,
	DATE
DATE	
	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
Signature of inventor 203	
DATE	DATE
	DATE SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205 DATE

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

and for which a patent application: ☑ is attached hereto and includes amendmen □ was filed in the United States on	nt(s) filed on	tion No.	with more and account of the
			with amendment(s) med
was filed as PCT international Application	n No. PCT/EP98/04930 on 23 July :	1998,	
hereby state that I have reviewed and unamendment referred to above.	derstand the contents of the above i	dentified application, includi	ng the claims, as amended by a
acknowledge the duty to disclose information	on known to me to be material to paten	tability as defined in Title 37,	Code of Federal Regulations, §1.:
hereby claim foreign priority benefits under isted below and have also identified below a method priority is claimed: EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLIE	ny foreign application for patent or inv	entor's certificate having a fili	ng date before that of the applicati
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED
97202631.4	European Patent Office	28 August 1997	YES NO D
			YES - NO -
hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, Un		ited States provisional applica	1

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

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DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP DOCKETING PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: 1667 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 FIRSTNAME MIDDLE NAME LASTNAME **FULL NAME** Johannes BAENSCH OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP CITY RESIDENCE & 0 France Le Breuil-en-Auge Germany CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY STREET CITY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE Le Breuil-on-Auge France 14130 Le Pré-aux-Meiux **ADDRESS** FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME **FULL NAME** GAUGAZ Marlène OF INVENTOR STATE OIL FOREIGN COUNTRY CITY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Switzerland Corseaux Switzerland CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 1802 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLENAME **FULL NAME** LENEUF Dominique OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP CITY RESIDENCE & ٥ Switzerland France Vevey CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 1800 18, avenue de la Prairie Vevey Switzerland ADDRESS FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LASTNAME **FULL NAME** REIMERDES Hartmut Ernst OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Cully/Villette Switzerland Germany CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 1096 161, route de Lausanne Cully/Villette Switzerland **ADDRESS** FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME LAST NAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP CITY RESIDENCE & ٥ CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY ZIF CODE STILEET POST OFFICE ADDRESS MIDDLENAME FIRST NAME LAST NAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR POREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP CITY RESIDENCE & 0 CITIZENSHIP 6 STREET D17Y STATE OR COUNTRY 21F CODE POST OFFICE **ADDRESS**

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of Johannes Baunsch	SIGNATURE OF MARLENE GAUGAZ	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUP	
		_	
DATE	DATE ·	DATE	·
	15.2.2000		
SIGNATURE OF ERNST HARTMUT REIMERDES	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204	· · ·
DATE	DATE	DATE	

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

CREAM-BASED FOOD COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF MANUFACTURE

filed in the United States on	nt(s) filed onas Applice	tion No.	with amendment(s)
s filed as PCT international Application	n No. PCT/EP98/04930 on 23 July	1998,	
cby state that I have reviewed and undiment referred to above.	derstand the contents of the above i	dentified application, includi	ng the claims, as amended b
nowledge the duty to disclose information	on known to me to be material to paten	tability as defined in Title 37,	Code of Federal Regulations,
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by claim forcign priority benefits under	Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)	(d) of any foreign application	(s) for patent or inventor's cert
eby claim foreign priority benefits under I below and have also identified below a high priority is claimed:	Title 35, United States Code, §119(a) ny foreign application for patent or inv	-(d) of any foreign applications entor's certificate having a film	(s) for patent or inventor's cert ng date before that of the appli
by claim foreign priority benefits under below and have also identified below a hich priority is claimed:	Title 35, United States Code, §119(a) ny foreign application for patent or inv	-(d) of any foreign application entor's certificate having a fili	(s) for patent or inventor's cert ng date before that of the appli
below and have also identified below a hich priority is claimed:	Title 35, United States Code, §119(a) ny foreign application for patent or inv	entor's certificate having a fili	ng date before that of the appli
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

			STATUS	
APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
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POST OFFICE ADDRESS

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: PENNIE & EDMONDS LLI 1667 K Street, N.W. PENNIE & EDMONDS IL DOCKETING Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** BAENSCH Johannes OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR POREION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Le Breuil-en-Auge France Germany CITIZENSHIP CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE Le Pré-aux-Moiux Le Breuil-en-Auge France 14130 ADDRESS FIRST NAME MIPPLENAME **FULL NAME** GAUGAZ Marlone OF INVENTOR 2 CHY STATE OF FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & ٥ Corseaux Switzerland Switzerland CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ŽIP CODE POST OFFICE 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland 1802 **ADDRESS** LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** LENEUF Dominique OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FORRIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Vevey Switzerland France **CITIZENSHIP** STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 18, avenue de la Prairie Vevey Switzerland 1800 ADDRESS LASTNAME PIRST NAMP MIDDLE NAME FULL NAME OF INVENTOR REIMERDES Ernst Hartmut 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Cully/Villette Switzerland Germany CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OR COUNTRY 217 CODE POST OFFICE 161, route de Lausanne Cully/Villette Switzerland 1096 ADDRESS LASTNAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSIUP RESIDENCE & Ō CITIZENSHIP STREET STATE OR COUNTRY ZIF CODE POST OFFICE **ADDRESS** EAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLENAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 CITY STATE OR POREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIF CODE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

порядава разписного по вяштарного	Skinature of Marlens Gaugaz	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUF
DATE	руде	11.02. 2000
Signature of ernst hartmut reimerdes	FIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
DATE	DATE	DATE

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below at 201 et seq. underneath my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or an original, first and joint inventor if plural names are listed at 201 et seq. below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

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nd for which a patent application: is attached hereto and includes amendment(s) filed onas Application No,		ation No.	with an	endment(s) filed	
was filed as PCT international Application	n No. PCT/EP98/04930 on 23 July	19 98 ,		<u>*</u>	
I hereby state that I have reviewed and un amendment referred to above,	derstand the contents of the above	identified application, includ	ing the claims, as	amended by an	
I acknowledge the duty to disclose informati	on known to me to be material to pate	ntability as defined in Title 37,	Code of Federal R	egulations, §1.50	
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under listed below and have also identified below a on which priority is claimed:	ny foreign application for patent or in	ventor's certificate having a fil	ing date before tha	t of the applicatio	
EARLIEST FOREIGN APPLIC	CATION(S), IF ANY, FILED PRIO	K TO THE FILING DATE OF	F THE APPLICA	HON	
APPLICATION NUMBER	COUNTRY	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED		
97202631.4	European Patent Office	28 August 1997	YES 🛮	NO D	
			YES 🗆	NO D	
I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, Un	nited States Code, §119(e) of any Un	nited States provisional applic	ation(s) listed belo)w.	
APPLICATION NUMBER		FILING DATE			

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PENNIE & EDMONDS ILP DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO: SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: 1667 K Street, N.W. PENNIE & EDMONDS LLP DOCKETING Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 496-4721 LAST NAME PIRST NAME MIDDLENAME FULL NAME BAENSCH Johannes OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OF PORTION COUNTRY CITY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP **RESIDENCE &** Û Le Breuil-en-Auge France Germany CITIZENSHIP STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE Le Pré-aux-Moiux Le Breuil-en-Auge France 14130 **ADDRESS** LAST NAME MIDDLE NAME FIRST NAME **FULL NAME** GAUGAZ Marlène OF INVENTOR CITY 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Corseaux Switzerland Switzerland CITIZENSHIP 2 STREET ĊITY STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 36, rue du Village Corseaux Switzerland 1802 ADDRESS LAST NAME AMEN TERIL MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** LENEUF Dominique OF INVENTOR 2 CITY STATE OR POREION COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Vevey Switzerland France **CITIZENSHIP** 3 STREET STATE OR COUNTRY ZIP CODE POST OFFICE 18, avenue de la Prairie Vevev Switzerland 1800 ADDRESS LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** REIMERDES Ernst Hartmut OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 Cully/Villette Switzerland Germany CITIZENSHIP 4 STATE OR COUNTRY 2IF CODE POST OFFICE 161, route de Lausanne Cully/Villette Switzerland 1096 **ADDRESS** LASTNAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 CĮTY STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & Ó CITIZENSHIP STATE OR COUNTRY STREET ZIP CODE POST OFFICE ADDRESS LASTNAME PIRST NAME MIDDLE NAME **FULL NAME** OF INVENTOR 2 STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE & 0 CITIZENSHIP 6 STREET CITY STATE OR COUNTRY POST OFFICE **ADDRESS**

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SIGNATURE OF JOHANNES BARNSCH	Signature of Marlene Gaugaz	SIGNATURE OF DOMINIQUE LENEUR
DATE	DATE	DATE
SUNATURE OF ERNST HARTMUT REIMERDES Bun A H. Dermi wall	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	Signature of inventor 206
14.02. 2000	DATE	PATE